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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



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Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1959

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Medical Officer of Health
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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

MR. ALDERMAN G. H. GOODWIN

Vice-Chairman:

MR. COUNCILLOR E. H. CORKE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(MR. COUNCILLOR J. BAKER, J.P.)

MR. ALDERMAN R. F. BOTTING

MR. COUNCILLOR N. F. HILL

„ R. B. LENDON

„ H. G. MORGAN

„ W. G. SANSOM

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. ACKLAND

„ MRS. E. E. J. MYERS

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Area School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex County Council:

R. J. Toleman, M.B.E.(Mil.), M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Eng.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. H. Ball, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Inspectors:

C. E. Lockley, Cert.S.I.B.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

S. Wild, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant; and Rodent Operator:

G. Chalmers.

Clerks:

K. F. Westwood.

Miss N. W. McEvoy.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council.

M. and C.W. Clinic:

London Road, Clinic, Bexhill: L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B.,
B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Weighing Centre:

Little Common Community Centre.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

London Road Clinic, Bexhill: R. K. Reid, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

E. W. Graham, M.B., B.S.

and at individual surgeries of the General Practitioners in
Bexhill.

Health Visitors and District Nurses:

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council:

*Present Staff:**Full-time Health Visitors:*

Miss L. W. Parks, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss B. I. Justice, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss A. M. Knapp, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Nurse-Midwives:

Miss G. Silver, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 15.1.60).

Miss D. M. Jull, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss M. Richardson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Miss B. Carter, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 15.1.60).

General Nurses:

Miss A. S. Odell, S.R.N., Q.N., Relief Nurse for District.

Mr. A. B. Kurn, S.R.N., Q.N.

Mr. C. G. Martin, S.R.N., Q.N.

Mrs. P. Hubbard, S.R.N., Part-time relief nurse.

Health Visitors, Nurse/Midwives and General Nurses:

Miss E. S. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (Resigned
14.1.60).

Miss B. M. Wickens, S.R.N., Part-time relief nurse (Resigned
27.11.59).

Tuberculosis:

East Sussex County Council:

A. W. Anderson, M.D.(Lond.), Chest Physician.

Venereal Diseases:

W. McAleenan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1959, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1/60, dated 9th January, 1960.

Staff

There were no staff changes during the year, but much extra work devolved on the District Public Health Inspectors during the prolonged absence through ill-health of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for more than half of the year, and my warmest thanks are due to these two Officers for coping so well with the day-to-day problems of Environmental Hygiene, and the added administrative duties.

General Standard of Health

This was extremely good throughout the year, and there were no major epidemics although the Measles outbreak in the latter part of 1958, continued during the first quarter of 1959, particularly in the Sidley area; the other districts being less affected (see Table 5). Fortunately there were no complications and only one case was admitted to hospital.

The Meteorological report of the Borough Meteorologist (Mr. H. J. Sargent), which will be found in Section A, gives full details of a delightfully prolonged summer and autumn, with a maximum of sunshine, a minimum of rainfall, and little or no periods of marked humidity, once more emphasising the great salubrious advantages of this part of Sussex, and Bexhill in particular.

Vital Statistics

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Seven infant deaths under the age of 1 year were registered as against three in 1958. The causes are set out in Table 2. It will be noted that 3 died in the first week of birth, 1 aged one month, 1 aged three months, and 2 aged six months, respectively. Two at least were not preventable, and two due to infectious conditions. The Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births was 26·4 (England and Wales 22·0).

BIRTHS

The births showed a decrease from 294 to 265, the rate being 9·9 per 1,000 estimated resident population. Adjusted for age and sex distribution of the population, the rate was 11·7 (1958, 14·3).

POPULATION

There was a slight increase from 26,490 to 26,610, according to the Registrar General's figures. The Census takes place in 1961 and a truer picture will then be forthcoming.

DEATHS

There were 519 as against 539 in 1958, death rate 11·1 adjusted (England and Wales 11·6). Table 4 gives the deaths by age groups.

Seventy-seven per cent of deaths in males occurred above the age of 65 years, while the figure for females was 85 per cent.

The average age of death was:

Males ... 71.9 years (expectation of life, England and Wales: 68)

Females ... 78.7 years (expectation of life, England and Wales: 73.7)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The major causes were (i) heart and circulatory disease 282, as against 313 in 1958, a reduction of 31, although there was a sharp increase in deaths from Coronary Thrombosis and Angina, viz., 93 as against 78.

Coronary Thrombosis remains the great killing disease of the over fifties, especially in the professional classes and in the proportion of 3 males to 2 females. (ii) Cancer deaths again showed an increase in those of the lung. The figures being 22 males and 5 females as against 15 males and 3 females in 1958.

There was 1 death from a motor accident (as against 4 in 1958), and 14 from other accident causes, viz:—

Drowning	...	...	...	2
Falls	...	...	...	5
Accidental Asphyxia	...	...	...	3
Electrocution	...	...	...	1
Shooting	...	...	...	1
Hanging	...	...	...	1
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	...	...	...	1
Suicides	...	...	...	3

Infectious Disease

The figures for each disease are shown in Table 5. Measles (as already mentioned), being the only one of epidemic proportion, and with mildness as the keynote.

Poliomyelitis

One poliomyelitis case was notified during the year in a child of 3 years, transferred to a children's convalescent home in Bexhill, from a general hospital in London, where there was a poliomyelitis outbreak, and after thorough investigation it was shown that the child had not caught the infection in Bexhill. Incidentally, the case which was mild, and resulted in almost complete recovery, had received two injections of polio vaccine, but not a third.

In spite of the prolonged spell of warm sunny weather, when thousands bathed every day in the sea, and the baths, no other case or suspected case of poliomyelitis was notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year. A sufficient index of the value of poliomyelitis immunisation and of the safety of sea bathing from Bexhill beaches.

It is hoped that poliomyelitis is on the way out, as in the case of Diphtheria, which once again was conspicuous by its absence.

Food Poisoning

As in the previous year, no cases of food poisoning were notified, indicating that the Food Hygiene Regulations were generally being complied with, thanks to the pioneer work and constant supervision of the Public Health Inspectors.

Sonne Dysentery

Was also absent (1 case only being notified), indicating that it is a condition mostly prevalent in the colder months of the year, and absent in hot weather, like Bacillary Dysentery, which is fly-borne, and rarely seen in this country.

Sanitary Circumstances

Full details will be found in the latter section of the report, while Table 17 tells of the numerous visits of the Public Health Inspectors, with the variety of duties undertaken; necessary and essential services to the Community which go on day after day throughout the year to maintain at a high level the Hygiene Standards which are a feature in Bexhill.

Mass Radiography

The East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit visited Bexhill in September, 1959, and the following figures show that the visit was well supported by the general public, while they also indicate the great value of the early detection of chest diseases.

		Male	Female	Total
Number of persons X-rayed	...	1,070	1,362	2,432
<i>Abnormal Films:</i>				
Tuberculosis requiring hospital treatment or close clinical supervision		3	4	7
Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision	... ..	6	3	9
Malignant disease	... ..	1	1	2
Sarcoid disease	... ..	—	1	1
Cardio-vascular diseases	... ..	9	5	14

National Assistance Act, 1958, Section 47

as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

There were no cases dealt with under this Act.

National Health Service Act, 1946

The Ambulance Service in Bexhill is administered by the County Medical Officer's Department and manned by the members of the St. John Ambulance Association. During the latter part of the year progress was being made with a view to full-time personnel being employed, and the latter would then be responsible for all messages (urgent or otherwise) and complete day to day running of the Service. The actual servicing of the vehicles is still carried out by Messrs. Russell, whose long and devoted connection with Bexhill Ambulance Service being thus continued although modified. The expected change will begin early in 1960.

Vaccination and Immunisation Service

During the year all vaccination and immunisation record cards were transferred to the County Medical Officer's Department in accordance with their O. and M. policy of centralising such records from the County Districts. It remains to be seen whether this is a wise policy or not. Delays in obtaining details of individual cases at the request of parents, family doctors, hospitals, etc., are inevitable when the records are not immediately available.

The Diphtheria and Polio immunisation sessions continue to be well attended and the position in Bexhill regarding the percentage protected is very satisfactory thanks to the continued efforts of the Health Visitors, Family Doctors, and Head Teachers; the parents co-operate splendidly. (See Table 13, for details).

Welfare of the Elderly

(i) CHIROPODY SERVICE

This continued to give excellent service throughout the year thanks to the whole-hearted co-operation of the members of the Society of Chiropodists in Bexhill, together with excellent support from the Bexhill Council of Social Service.

In 1960, this service will be expanded to take in expectant mothers, cripples, etc., and will then be financed by the Local Health Authority (East Sussex County Council); though the administration will remain as before, viz., in the hands of the Special Sub-Committee of the Council of Social Service.

(ii) SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Support for the above, which it is hoped will start to function in 1960-1961, was readily forthcoming; sponsored as it was by the Bexhill Friends of the Elderly. Suitable premises are being acquired and furnished and will certainly add considerably to the excellent services provided locally for the elderly people.

Companionship is a most important element in such clubs where in time the surroundings become familiar and part of life. A certain amount of reluctance to join may at first be felt but later appreciation takes its place when lives become widened, narrowed as they so often are by the limit of a room in a lonely house. The members in turn help to run the Club and get to know each other. Anyone not turning up as usual can be contacted or visited to see if anything is wrong, e.g., illness, accidents, etc.

Beach Pollution and Sewage Disposal

The long awaited report of Medical Research Council's Special Committee on Sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches in England and Wales was published in 1959, and confirmed what had been claimed before in previous reports, viz.:

That bathing in sewage polluted sea water carries only a negligible risk to health and that the nuisance when it occurs is mainly an aesthetic one.

No case of infectious disease, e.g., Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Paratyphoid Fever, Water-borne Dysentery has ever been traced to seabathing in Bexhill.

The Bexhill sewage outfall is well sited and during the past two years thousands of pounds have been spent in putting it into an excellent state of repair and stability which, added to the principle of complete disintegration of solids before the effluent reaches the outfall, reduces the risk of beach contamination due to Bexhill sewage to negligible proportions.

Sea water by reason of its chlorine and mineral content is a great disinfectant and destroyer of disease producing organisms.

Flooding in Bexhill

There was no serious flooding in Bexhill during 1959, owing to the exceptionally long dry spell which continued well into Autumn when the highest rainfalls had occurred during the previous year.

Public Conveniences

Closure of the Colonnade Conveniences on the grounds of health and hygiene took place at the end of the summer season. Since then much time and thought have been devoted to finding an alternative site in the vicinity of the central portion of the Parade. No site up to now has met all objections and criticisms and ultimately it will resolve itself into selecting the best site available as the ideal seems impossible to find.

Litter

My own personal opinion is that there was an improvement during the year thanks to National publicity on television, radio and press, and local publicity in the "Bexhill Observer." Much remains to be done to maintain the improvement and to further improve it.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the fouling of pavements and lawns by dogs both under control and free. Measures to be adopted by the Council in 1960, by way of notices and local byelaw re compulsory control of dogs in certain areas of the town and on the parade should eventually lead to some amelioration at least.

Swimming Pool

The accommodation was tried to the utmost owing to the long sunny summer and autumn, so much so that the risk of spread of infectious disease (not from bathing) could not be disregarded, and the appropriate Committee with full approval of the Council, took steps to deal with it as well as to recommend other long desired amenities during the year. Ultimately it is hoped to increase the bath area itself but the urgent problem is first of all increased and improved dressing accommodation. The standard of cleanliness in the bath and its surroundings was above criticism and all samples passed the most stringent bacteriological examination.

During the last two to three weeks of the season, the bath had to be closed for urgent repairs to the clarifying system and in addition the chlorinating apparatus was replaced by a more modern and efficient unit.

Committees

The Committees responsible for health matters in Bexhill are, with their duties:

1. HEALTH COMMITTEE

- (a) Public Health and Sanitation.
- (b) Slaughterhouse, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and regulations made thereunder, Shops Acts and factories and workshops.
- (c) Moveable dwellings.
- (d) The Mortuary.
- (e) Breaches of Bye-laws or Statutes as to matters dealt with by them.

- (f) The service of Notices (other than Preliminary Notices), and, if necessary, the institution of legal proceedings.
- (g) Reconstruction of drains.
- (h) Pollution of streams and watercourses.
- (i) To exercise and carry out the powers and duties of the Council in all matters of urgency relating to the suppression of nuisances and preservation of public health.
- (j) Sewerage and drainage.
- (k) The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.
- (l) Diseases of Animals Acts.
- (m) Destructive Insects and Pests Acts.
- (n) Riding Establishments Act, 1939.

2. ESTATES AND PARKS COMMITTEE

- (a) The care, control, and management of the Swimming Bath.
- (b) The care, control, and management of Cemeteries.

3. WATER COMMITTEE

- (a) The supply of water and management and control of the water undertaking of the Council.

In conclusion, I place on record my warmest thanks to a loyal, conscientious and hard working staff, particularly to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. H. Ball, and especially during his absence to Mr. C. E. Lockley, the Senior District Inspector, to Mr. K. Westwood, the Chief Clerk, who as usual is a tower of strength ably backed up by Miss McEvoy, our most efficient Shorthand-Typist.

My relations with the Chairman and Members of the Committee continued to be cordial while encouragement and support has never been lacking.

The Editor and Staff of the "Bexhill Observer" have also been most ready to assist the cause of Preventive Medicine, at all times, and finally my fellow Chief Officers with the Town Clerk as the Chief Executive have given help and guidance whenever required.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

1960.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Bexhill, Sussex.

(Tel.: Bexhill 936).

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,015 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,610
Number of separate dwelling assessments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,812
Rateable Value at 1.5.59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£572,643
General Rate levied 1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. 6d.
Product of Penny Rate 1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,337 9s. 11d.

METEOROLOGY

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1959:

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year 1959. Detailed monthly and other reports were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the Press, to the publishers of year-books, to insurance companies, to local municipal departments, and to numerous inquirers.

The year 1959 provided abundant sunshine, agreeable warmth, and prolonged dry periods during the summer months. The total precipitation for the year was 28.03 ins. (normal 28.79 ins.). The driest months in relation to their normals were February, August and September, January and November were wet months, and December's heavy fall of 7.30 ins. (normal 3.14 ins.) provided the balance which brought the year's fall almost up to normal. The longest dry spell on local record commenced on 16th August and extended until 15th October—54 consecutive days during which only one small fall of rain was registered.

Throughout the summer months sunshine was in excess of normal. From June until September, the total duration was 1,033.3 hrs., 172 hrs. more than the average. Apart from the summer months, January and October also received a notable excess of sunshine. The total duration for the year was 1,960.6 hrs. (normal 1,812.3 hrs.).

Summer temperatures were consistently high, but although the eighties were exceeded on two occasions there were no outstanding "heat waves," and because of its coastal situation Bexhill escaped the oppressive sweltering heat experienced in many inland places. January, with a mean temperature 2.2 degrees below the normal was a cold month; there were frequent frosts—a ground frost of 16 degrees was recorded on one occasion—but there was only one light fall of snow. February's mean temperature was a little below the normal, and December was very mild. The mean temperature for the year was 52.3 degrees (normal 50.6).

The full records of daily observations of air-pressure, temperatures, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, clouds, wind, visibility, and other meteorological items, with notes on the general weather conditions throughout the year, are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births: Legitimate	131	116	247
Illegitimate	8	10	18
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	—	—	9·9
(Comparability Factor 1·29) Adjusted Birth Rate	—	—	11·7
Stillbirths: Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	1	7
Rate per 1,000 population...	—	—	·26
Deaths	225	294	519
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	—	—	19·5
(Comparability Factor 0·59) Adjusted Death Rate	—	—	11·1
Deaths from puerperal causes	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:			
Legitimate	2	5	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age ...	—	—	26·4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	54	67	121
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa	—	—	—
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	—	—	—

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes							Male 225	Female 294
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	...	...	...	...	...	22	8
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	...	...	...	...	...	28	41
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	30	58
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	56	37
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	15	56
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	13
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	19	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	18
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

TABLE 2
INFANTILE DEATHS 1959. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH

Cause	Age in Weeks				Total under 1 Month	Age in Months					Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4		1	2	3	6	9-12	
Congenital Aortic Stenosis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia associated with Circulatory Failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia associated with aspiration of stomach contents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staphylococcal Empyema ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

TABLE 3
INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Congenital Aortic Stenosis	Asphyxia with Circulatory Failure	Asphyxia associated with aspiration of stomach contents	Asphyxia Neonatorum	Staphylococcal Empyema	Prematurity	Ac. Pneumonia
Central	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sackville	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sidley	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
St. Marks	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE 4
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1959

	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76-80	Over 80	Total
Males ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	10	33	83	46	45	225
Females ...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	16	20	72	55	119	294

TABLE 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1959 SHOWN BY WARDS

Disease	Ward						Total
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's	Sidley	
Diphtheria 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Measles 	65	45	66	44	57	242	519
Scarlet Fever 	2	1	5	—	—	10	18
Ac. Pneumonia 	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas... 	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	1	1	1	2	6
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery... 	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals 	69	46	72	46	61	260	553
Tuberculosis Notifications	—	—	—	—	—	—	12

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological and pathological examinations continued to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at their Brighton laboratory, under Dr. J. E. Jameson, Director.

Ambulance Facilities

While the Ambulances themselves are the property of the Local Health Authority, the Service itself is staffed and run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bexhill Division, and continues to function efficiently and satisfactorily by the personnel concerned, with certain changes to be instituted in 1960, as mentioned in my introductory statement.

TABLE 6
CALLS 1959—Three Ambulances

	Accident or Emergency	Others, including Invalid, Infectious	Total	No. of Journeys	Total Mileage
January	5	267	272	234	1,447
February	9	257	266	129	1,632
March	8	250	258	229	1,932
April	7	245	252	193	1,750
May	13	209	222	178	1,588
June	22	188	210	168	1,824
July	8	202	210	172	1,918
August	17	179	196	163	1,797
September	13	196	209	166	1,608
October	18	204	222	187	1,836
November	10	216	226	187	2,139
December	8	186	194	166	1,599

Nursing in the Home

During 1959, the following number of cases were attended by the District Nurses and Health Visitors:

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	...	124
General cases	...	...	...	538
The Visits paid were:				
Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	...	3,238
General Nursing (Including Casual)	...	...	...	19,010
Health Visits	...	...	...	6,835
Ante- and Post-Natal	...	...	...	981
Clinic Sessions attended	...	...	...	668
Mothercraft Classes and Examinations	...	...	...	48
T.B. Visits	...	...	...	117

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	Monday to Friday at 9 a.m.
Dental Clinic for School Children, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	By appointment
Infant Welfare Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	Every Thursday, 2 p.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic, Little Common Community Centre, Shepherds Close, Little Common:	1st Mondays in Month at 2 p.m.
Toddlers' Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	2nd Friday in month, morning—by appointment
Ante-Natal Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	1st Fridays, 3rd Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	Tuesday afternoons, 3 p.m.
Dental Clinic for Mothers and Pre-School Children, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	By appointment
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	2nd Wednesday in month, 2.30 p.m.
Little Common Community Centre, Shepherds Close, Little Common:	1st Monday in month, 2 p.m.
Vaccination Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	2nd Wednesday in month, 2.30 p.m.
Poliomyelitis Vaccination, London Road Clinic, Bexhill:	1st Wednesday in month, 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.-7.30 p.m.
Chest Clinic, Bexhill Hospital:	Every Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Venereal Disease Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings:	Fridays, 4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:

Total number of homes registered in the Borough on the							
31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of applications for registration during 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Homes registered during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nursing Homes closed down during the year by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

1. Water Supply

Under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925, the control of the water supply is vested in the Bexhill Corporation.

(a) The Statutory area includes the Borough of Bexhill and seven rural parishes, the water being obtained from three pumping stations and is fed throughout the whole area through 119 miles of mains, and the water supply has been satisfactory both with regard to quality and quantity.

(b) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and subsequent treatment at the various pumping stations are carried out.

During 1959, a sample was submitted each month for bacteriological and/or chemical examinations of the water supplied to the consumers and in all cases the standard was that required of a public supply.

(c) The water of the Bexhill Area is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(d) There are within the Borough 10,018 dwelling-houses and flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 194 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 624 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 1,118 dwelling-houses and flats directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 384 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1959 in the statutory area was 1,477,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 82,000 gallons per day as compared with 1958.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 7th October, 1959

Low Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Faint opalescence with no visible deposit.
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	8.0
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	405
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	45
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	...	115
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals—Iron	...	...	...	...	0.40
Zinc, Copper and Lead	...	...	...	...	Absent
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	3
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	370
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	130
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	115
Non-Carbonate	...	...	...	...	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.30
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.03

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar:

1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.

2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.

3 days at 20-22°C.... .. 4 per ml.

Presumptive Coliform reaction ... Present in – ml.
Absent from 100 ml.
Probable Number 0 per 100 ml.

Bact. coli (Type 1) Present in – ml.
Absent from 100 ml.
Probable Number 0 per 100 ml.

Cl. welchii reaction Present in – ml.
Absent from 100 ml.

Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These are satisfactory results and the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

During 1959, five properties, previously draining to cesspools in the Pebsham area, were connected to the main sewer constructed by the Council.

Work on the enlargement of the York Road pumping station was completed.

Subsidiary surface water sewers were begun in Collington Rise, Collington Avenue and Collington Grove to link up with the main sewer completed the previous year between Broadoak Lane and Veness Gap.

Sewer cleansing and dragging were carried out as normal routine maintenance and a number of blockages and subsidences were cleared and made good.

Favourable weather during the summer months enabled good progress to be maintained on stabilising the main sea outfall.

3. Rivers and Streams

Cleansing has been carried out of ditches and streams that are the Council's liability. Private landowners can contribute materially to the relief of flooding during storm times if they ensure that old watercourses on their land are not destroyed and that all watercourses are kept free from obstruction.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse, carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, has proceeded satisfactorily and weekly collections (with twice-weekly and special collections from hotels and schools where necessary) has been maintained.

Controlled tipping has been carried out on the Hastings County Borough tip in a satisfactory and economical manner.

The continued loss of revenue on waste paper salvage due to the large increase in newsprint caused the Council to discontinue the separate collection and salvaging of paper.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1959, 6,829 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. The nature of the inspections, together with the list of notices served and the results of such notices are included in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, which appears at the end of this Report.

6. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

During the year 202 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces. Fourteen notices were served during the year, of which ten were complied with at the end of the year.

7. Moveable Dwellings

There are 15 licensed sites, giving accommodation for 244 caravans and 104 tents in the area.

Routine inspections of fairs and circuses have been carried out and the usual high standard was found.

Youth Organisations again visited the area for camping holidays.

The arrangements at the various sites were kept under observation.

8. Smoke Abatement

Premises were kept under observation from time to time—26 visits were made.

The principal industries are gas-works, brick-works and dry-cleaning works. Railway operations also come within the sphere of activity.

With the changeover to Diesel traction on the Southern section of British Railways the question of smoke abatement does not now arise to any considerable extent as steam locomotion is used only during shunting operations and this does not appear to present any problems.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

This important aspect of Public Health was undertaken during the bathing season and 14 samples were taken of bath water and submitted for analysis. All of which were satisfactory.

10. Eradication of Vermin

A total of 15 complaints was received in respect of premises infested with fleas—4 Council and 11 private premises were disinfested.

In connection with re-housing in Council Houses, 121 visits were paid. Furniture and effects were inspected prior to re-housing.

11. Offensive Trades

There are two premises in the area which come within the definition of offensive trades, i.e., two rag and bone dealers.

12. Fish Frying Premises

There are three premises in the Borough where this trade is carried on. Thirty-one visits were made during the year.

13. Pig-Keeping, Poultry-Keeping and Rabbit-Keeping

The Officers of the Department have supervised premises where pig-keeping, poultry-keeping and rabbit-keeping are pursued, and in this connection 3 visits were paid to premises for poultry and rabbit-keeping and 15 visits for pig-keeping.

14. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1950

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1920

Under the Shops Act, 1950, 362 visits were made to shops during the year in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation and general sanitation. One Notice was served.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959
1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	47	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	122	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	9	25	9	—
TOTAL	119	194	16	—

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108)

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959
2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	10	6	—	—
(a) Insufficient	8	6	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	19	13	1	—

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel } Making, etc. Household linen } Cleaning and Washing Lace, lace curtains and nets Curtains and furniture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and brass articles For pulling Iron and steel cables and chains Iron and steel anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets	2					
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—continued
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110					Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)		
Tents	NIL							
Sacks								
Racquet and tennis balls								
Paper bags								
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper								
Brush making								
Pea picking								
Feather sorting								
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.								
Stuffed toys								
Basket making								
Chocolates and sweetmeats								
Cosques, Christmas stockings, etc.								
Textile weaving								
Lampshades								
TOTAL	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected by the Council during the year:					
Traditional Type Brick Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
One bedroom Flats	...	...	...	...	32

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling-houses are submitted in the following tabular form:

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

(i) (a)		Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	725
(b)		Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	1,382
(ii) (a)		Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	22
(b)		Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	40
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	45

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers					47
---	--	--	--	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Proceedings under Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957: | |
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts: | |
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 3 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By Owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957: | |
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 1 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957: | |
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 1 |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1957

During the year 6 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department.

5. Reconditioning of Houses

Forty-seven houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action.

6. Housing Programme

The undermentioned table, supplied by the Corporation Housing Department sets out details with regard to applications for housing accommodation and the number rehoused at 31st December, 1959.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	531
(b) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	...	...	35
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	10

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Committee since June, 1945	1,438
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1959 is as follows:

- (a) 12 Units of Aged Persons Accommodation.
(Conversion of property into Aged Persons Flatlets—
replacement of temporary bungalows).

7. Housing—Clearance Areas

There was no demolition under this heading.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 44 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to dealers' premises and dairies during 1959.

REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives details of the regulations effected and the licences issued during the year:

Food and Drugs Act, 1955	
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54	
and the	
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations	
1949-53	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—REGISTRATIONS

Certificate of Registration of Dairy	...	...	...	2
Certificate of Registration of Distributor	...	...	...	37

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS, 1949-53—LICENCES:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	35
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	4
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54 LICENCES:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	33
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	4

Pasteurised Milk

During the year there was one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough and three sources of supply of milk were treated at plants outside the Borough.

During the year 30 samples of this milk were taken. All were found to be satisfactory.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

There are 33 dealers in the Borough who supply graded milks under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

(i) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

Forty samples of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk were obtained. None was found to be unsatisfactory.

(ii) Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled).

Forty-one samples of this grade of milk were obtained of which two were found to be unsatisfactory.

The total number of samples of various grades of milk taken during the year was 113. Only 2 samples or 1·7 per cent were found to be unsatisfactory. A satisfactory position.

TABLE 8
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN

Pasteurised		Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)		Tuberculin-Tested (Farm Bottled)	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
30	—	40	—	41	2

(b) Food Hygiene

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Number of Food Premises in the Area

Type:

Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	52
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	50
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bread and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous, including sweets and ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	44
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	23
Hotels and Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	...	103
Total	...	...	...	...	...	350
Total shops in Area	...	...	...	...	...	495

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

For the manufacture and sale of Sausages or Potted Pickled or Preserved Food	21
For the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream ...	146

The number of Notices served was 12 of which 4 had been complied with by the end of the year.

TABLE 9
SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

						lbs.	ozs.	Total Weight lbs. ozs.
Meat								
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	42	0	
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	23	12	
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	30	0	
Melts	...	...	...	...	...	25	0	
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	...	115	0	
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	145	0	
						<hr/>		380 12
Tinned Meat								
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	...	35	2	
Pork Tenderloin	...	...	...	...	...	37	4	
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	53	4	
Minced Meat Loaf	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	
Chicken	...	...	...	...	...	8	0	
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	...	10	15	
Lamb Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	36	12	
						<hr/>		185 1
Miscellaneous								
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	15	3	
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	
Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	
Gravy Browning	...	...	...	...	...		4	
Coconut	...	...	...	...	...		6	
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	764	0	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	195	0	
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	...	7	0	

Fish Dressing Crumbs	...	...	...	4	8		
Biscuits	...	...	...	100	8		
						1,092	8
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		
						10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Fish	...	...	...	100	0		
						100	0
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	...	...		426	4 $\frac{1}{4}$		
						426	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon and Ham—Tinned and Otherwise				85	5 $\frac{3}{4}$		
						85	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
						2,280	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

Disposal

Animal Feeding and Manufacturing Purposes	...					2,280	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
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TABLE 10
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Adulteration

The East Sussex County Council is the Authority for the administration of this sub-section, and the following information has been received from that Authority:

Articles	No. of Samples taken		Genuine		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	16	102	6	93	10	9
Channel Island Milk ...	—	5	—	5	—	—
Butter	—	3	—	3	—	—
Ice Cream	—	3	—	3	—	—
Preserves	—	3	—	3	—	—
Sweets	—	3	—	3	—	—
Meat Puddings	—	3	—	3	—	—
Peanut Butter	—	2	—	2	—	—
Double Cream	—	2	—	2	—	—
Yoghourt	—	2	—	2	—	—
Cheese and Cheese Spread	—	2	—	2	—	—
Tinned Milk	—	2	—	2	—	—
Tinned Fruit	—	2	—	2	—	—
Ale	—	2	—	2	—	—
Almond Spread	—	2	—	2	—	—
Margarine	—	1	—	1	—	—
Rice	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mixed Dried Fruit	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dried Bananas	—	1	—	1	—	—
Jelly Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bread Crumbs	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dessert	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cake covering	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mixed Peel	—	1	—	1	—	—
Olive oil	—	1	—	1	—	—
Instant coffee	—	1	—	1	—	—
Black currant drink ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish cakes	—	1	—	1	—	—

The milk samples adversely reported against came from three farms and were taken on delivery at the wholesale dairy. In two instances the milk was genuine but sub-standard; in the other the adulteration was slight and the farmer received a written caution. Of the two farms producing sub-standard milk one was sold a few days after sampling and the herd dispersed; at the other the farmer was advised to consult the area Milk Advisory Officer. Samples taken subsequently from all these farms have been satisfactory.

Ice Cream

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

One hundred and ten samples were submitted for examination with the following results:

Grade 1, 99; Grade 2, 10; Grade 3, —; Grade 4, 1.

In assessing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is generally accepted that the product should attain either Grade 1 or 2.

The results show that of the samples taken during the year 1959, 99 per cent satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2.

It has been found that samples failing to satisfy Grades 1 or 2 have been “ loose ” ice cream or unwrapped particularly sold in Cafes.

Five samples of ice cream were taken in order to ascertain the quality of the product, which is based on a Fat Content Standard of five per cent. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Strict supervision is given to premises where ice cream is handled; and this is increasingly reflected in the constantly rising standard of samples.

Number of manufacturing premises: 2.

Number of registered retail premises: 146.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table below summarises the notifications for the year together with the Hospital admissions.

There were no deaths and the Hospital admissions all recovered completely.

TABLE 11

Diseases	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	4	—	—
Measles	519	1	—
Scarlet Fever	18	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	2	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1*	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Chicken Pox	—	2	—
Totals	553	7	—

* Case in St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings, at time of notification.

Vaccination

Twelve public sessions of Vaccination were held during the year on the second Wednesday in the month at the East Sussex County Clinic, London Road, at 2.30 p.m. The following table gives particulars of the number vaccinated and revaccinated at the Clinic and by General Practitioners.

TABLE 12

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING YEAR 1959						
Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	217	20	7	4	25	273
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	2	20	176	195

NUMBER OF CASES SPECIALLY REPORTED DURING PERIOD (age groups as above)

(a) Generalised Vaccinia	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalo-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Deaths from complications of vaccination other than (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria/Pertussis Immunisation

Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus Immunisation

Twenty-six sessions for inoculation were held during the year and particulars of the numbers dealt with and including those dealt with by private practitioners, are shown in the following table.

TABLE 13

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year:			
Diph.	—	—	29
Diph./Pert.	—	—	—
Diph./Pert./Tetanus	255	43	5
Total	255	43	34
Number of children who received reinforcing injections against Diphtheria during the year	—	8	656

Immunisation

Little criticism can be levelled at these figures, e.g., Smallpox vaccination, 82 per cent of children under 1 year vaccinated (England and Wales 40 per cent).

Diphtheria—255 under 1 year out of a total of 265 births is practically 99 per cent, an amazing figure and must be as high as any other district in England and Wales. In addition, the figure for booster or reinforcing injections rose from 302 to 656.

The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Area School Medical Officer carries out immunisation at the schools after routine medical inspection sessions. In addition many mothers prefer to make their own arrangements with the family doctor, who is supplied free of charge with any of the necessary immunising antigens or agents.

TABLE 14
WHOOPIING COUGH CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1948-1958

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Under 1 year ...	14	—	—	11	2	7	2	—	5	2	1	1
1 year ... }	34	7	3	17	4	46	19	2	2	3	2	1
2 years ...									6	4	2	—
3 years ... }	42	9	13	24	6	65	36	4	8	8	3	—
4 years ...									11	2	1	1
5-9 years ...	59	14	21	41	8	96	41	8	46	4	6	1
10-14 years ...	12	1	1	11	—	10	2	—	3	1	—	—
15-24 years ...	1	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	8	—	—	3	1	4	2	1	1	1	—	—
Total ...	170	31	40	110	21	229	103	15	82	25	15	4

In connection with immunisation and vaccination, I am often asked what inoculations are required for persons travelling or holidaying abroad and the following facts may help:

(i) Vaccination against Smallpox

(Protection lasts 3 years) ... Compulsory abroad in most countries.

(ii) Inoculation against Typhoid

and Paratyphoid (Protection lasts 1 year) ... Not compulsory, but advisable in most countries in East Africa, and Asia, and Central and South America.

(iii) Cholera (Protection lasts 6 months) ... India and Far East (compulsory)

(iv) Yellow Fever (Protection lasts 6 years) ... Compulsory in East, Central and West Africa, and Central and South America.

(v) Poliomyelitis ... Not required, but desirable in infant children and young persons. Available up to age of 40 years.

In case of doubt enquiries should be made at the Consular Offices of the Countries concerned.

International Certificates which are authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health, for vaccination against Smallpox, and Inoculation against Typhoid group, Yellow Fever, Cholera, etc., must be obtained from the Ministry of Health in London, or from the Travel Agency (Shipping, or Air) concerned.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

I am informed by the County Medical Officer of Health that the figures for the County as a whole are satisfactory but they have no separate statistics for the County Districts.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as due to Cancer was 121 (54 males and 67 females), as against 109 in 1958, the rise being almost entirely due to an increase of 12 in the deaths due to lung cancer.

Tuberculosis

TABLE 15

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	7	5	—	—	1	2	—	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1959, was as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	68	56	124
Non-Pulmonary	6	4	10
	<u>74</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>134</u>

It will be seen that there has been an increase of nine cases over the 1958 figure, i.e., 125 as against 134.

There were 12 new notifications, and investigation of these shows that:

- 4 were males over 65 years of age.
- 1 was a female over 65 years of age.
- 1 was a female in the 53-65 years' group.
- 1 was a female in the 45-55 years' group.
- 1 was a male in the 35-45 years' group.
- 2 were males in the 25-35 years' group.
- 2 were females in the 25-35 years' group.

In addition there were 12 inward transfers, and 1 case was restored to the register, making 25 cases in all. Against these there were 5 deaths, while 11 cases left the area, making a total of 16 off the register, which gives a net increase of 9 for the year.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on environmental hygiene and kindred subjects for the year 1959.

For almost two-thirds of the year the supervision of this section of the Public Health Department was under the charge of Mr. C. E. Lock ley who carried out the duties in a most thorough and capable manner.

As I have stated in the past on several occasions in so far as Bexhill is concerned these duties have now become somewhat of a routine character and it is only occasionally anything of special interest arises. However, there is no reason for complacency and routine work must be carried on at the full tempo whenever possible having regard to staff difficulties which have arisen owing to my indisposition during the past twelve months.

General Observations

HOUSING

The Council's Slum Clearance programme envisaged as a result of a survey by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was completed in so far as representation goes and in addition a further addendum to this survey was submitted to the Ministry and accepted, to be dealt with in due course. It would appear at this juncture that when the whole of this programme has been completed slum clearance so far as Bexhill is concerned will be no longer a problem although wastage from time to time will arise in so far as some old properties are concerned.

BASEMENT DWELLINGS

Another problem which will have to be considered in its entirety is the number of basement dwellings which exist in the town, many of which were never intended to be used as such but owing to the acute housing shortage immediately after the war were converted to some degree of domestic habitation and are now beginning to show signs of rapid deterioration, particularly in regard to dampness. This is a matter with which the Department must concern itself in the very near future.

HOUSING GRANTS

During the year 1959, under the heading of Improvement Grants, the Department dealt with 19 Discretionary Grants and 18 Standard Grants. There is complete liaison between the Town Clerk's and Borough Surveyor's Departments in dealing with these applications which enables the Public Health Department's Officers to assess the fitness of a property under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957. It is the practice where necessary to carry out a complete inspection of the house as to disrepair under the aforementioned Section.

CESSPOOLS

It was mentioned in last year's report that the construction of secondary sewers in the Pebsham area has enabled a considerable number of properties to be connected direct to the sewer. It is now possible to examine the figures previously obtained in 1948 as a result of a survey and with deductions there are now approximately 270 cesspools (inclusive of septic tank systems) within the confines of the Borough.

It has been possible with the assistance of the General Assistant, Mr. G. Chalmers, to keep these under constant supervision and we have a working arrangement with the Borough Surveyor's Department by whom we are informed of emptyings, and this enables an inspection of the construction of the cesspool to be made immediately after emptying and to cause any defects found to be remedied.

FOOD

Under this concise heading the Inspectorial staff has been responsible for the supervision of milk supply, water supply and ice cream, inspection of butchers' shops, grocers' shops, greengrocers' shops. Inspections for the detection of unsound food have been carried out systematically throughout the shops in the Borough. This again adds point to the necessity for routine inspection.

CLEAN AIR

SMOKE ABATEMENT

With reference to Glyne Gap Gas Works, conditions here are much improved, whilst at the Bexhill Gas Works there has been no cause for complaint during the past twelve months.

One factory (Dyeworks) has now changed over completely for steam raising operations to oil-fired units and this has resulted in a two-fold improvement in so far as there is now no smoke and also occasional nuisance which did arise at times due to the bulk off loading of coal has been eliminated.

The dairy premises which formerly had used a converted Cochrane upright steam boiler with oil-fired unit has now been superceded by an up-to-date oil-fired unit. The former boiler will in future only be used for stand-by purposes in extreme circumstances.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

FOOD INSPECTION—MILK—ICE CREAM

MILK

A total of 113 samples were taken and submitted for examination of which only two samples failed the laboratory test.

ICE CREAM

A total of 110 samples were taken and submitted for examination of which 109 (Grade 1—99; Grade 2—10) or 99 per cent satisfied the requirements of the Methylene Blue Test.

FOOD HYGIENE

The inspection of food premises, shops, cafes, hotels and guest houses proceeded throughout the year.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	115
No. of Notices served	...	...	...	12
No. of Notices complied with (This includes notices out standing from previous years)	...	...	...	26

Details of items remedied are appended below:

TABLE 16

Cleanse and colour wash walls and ceilings	...	...	...	10
Cleanse and repaint walls and ceilings	...	...	...	5
Cleanse walls and ceilings and repair	...	...	...	1
Cleanse walls and floor	...	...	...	1
Provide and fix new wash-hand basin, etc.	...	...	...	9
Provide accommodation for storage of clothing	...	...	...	2
Notice requiring washing of hands	...	...	...	25
Provide shades for electric lights	...	...	...	2
Provide soap, towels, nail brushes	...	...	...	6
Provide first-aid box, etc.	...	...	...	7
Repair or provide tiled surface to wall over sink	...	...	...	2
Defective wall plaster	...	...	...	2
Notice re smoking/spitting	...	...	...	2
Provide new sink	...	...	...	11
Renew existing sink	...	...	...	2
Defective doors	...	...	...	1
Provide hoods to gas cookers	...	...	...	5
Provide hot water	...	...	...	16
Provide cold water	...	...	...	2
Repair roof	...	...	...	1
Dirty windows and cills	...	...	...	1
Renew panes of glass	...	...	...	4
Repair concrete floor and relay	...	...	...	1
Defective ceiling plaster	...	...	...	2
Dirty floor	...	...	...	2
Dirty W.C. pedestal	...	...	...	1
Repair floor	...	...	...	1
Intervening ventilated space	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of rubbish	...	...	...	1
Provide non-absorbent floor covering	...	...	...	1
Provide extra point	...	...	...	1
Provide refuse bin	...	...	...	1

Provision of cold storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provide non-absorbent top to table	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Repair defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	147

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Summary of Accommodation:

Marina	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
East Parade	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
West Parade	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Colonnade	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Egerton Park (Museum)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Cooden Beach	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Sidley	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Devonshire Square	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Little Common	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Little Common Recreation Ground	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Downs Arch	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Glyne Gap	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male and Female
Buckhurst Place	...	...	...	...	...	...	Female only
Sackville Arch	...	...	...	...	...	...	Male only.

Last year I mentioned that malicious damage was causing considerable trouble and expense to the Department and I have still to report that this type of enjoyment seems to be the sport of a certain type of people. We have sought assistance in detection of the culprits but so far we have not met with success.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

CARAVANS—TENTS

The licensed sites continued to be operated satisfactorily.

The general problem of sewage disposal and water supply to Normans Bay continued to receive the attention of the Council and its Officers but it would appear that a position of stalemate at present exists.

The accompanying tables set out the nature and scope of the work carried out by the Department during the course of the year:

TABLE 17

Housing Inspection P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	659
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,242
Houses Inspections, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	...	140

Milk Sampling:								
Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Phosphatase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Food and Drugs Act (Regist.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Infectious Disease and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Disinfestation—general	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Disinfestation, bugs, fleas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	418
								<hr/> 6,829 <hr/>

COMPLAINTS

1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	804
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	818
1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	758
1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	720
1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	707
1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	708
1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	653

TABLE 18

COMPLAINTS 1959

Conditions of premises	...	...	...	...	9
Beetles, ants, flies, etc.	...	...	...	...	50
Dampness	...	...	...	...	29
Stoving and/or Disinfection of rooms/articles	...	...	...	...	33
Drainage and sanitary fittings	...	...	...	...	35
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	26
Food	...	...	...	...	32
Flooding	...	...	...	...	8
Housing defects	...	...	...	...	37
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	17
Cesspools and septic tanks	...	...	...	...	6
Absence of or defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	2
Overgrown land	...	...	...	...	10
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	15

Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bad Smells	...	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	23
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	27
						<hr/> 653 <hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 19

Statutory Notices served during 1959	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices complied with during 1959	...	...	...	...	4
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	3
Informal Notices served during 1959...	...	...	...	...	322
Informal Notices complied with during 1959	...	...	...	...	282
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	40

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Forty-seven houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action. The following tables show the sanitary improvements effected during the year:

TABLE 20

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspection chambers reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes or vents renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective channel	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Absence of grid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grids cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Choked gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gullies cleansed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective or overflowing cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditches require cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. Pan	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. seat	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective W.C. flushing cistern	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective connection between flush pipe and pedestal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. pedestal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insanitary and defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective plaster to walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Defective plaster to ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Defective boarded ceiling	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective joints between roof and wall	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective internal walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective external walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

Dampness of walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Damp ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness of chimney breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness general	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rising dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Defective air bricks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective fire wall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Walls require cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ceilings require cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective fire places and grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Firegrate missing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective kitchen ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective chimney flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective pointing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective cement rendering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective skirting boards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective washboilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective doors and cupboards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Absence of ventilated food stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective or absence of stair handrail	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective sashes and frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Defective and badly fitting windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective and dangerous chimney pots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective steps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective or absence of paved approach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Defective dust chute	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Keeping of animals/hens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of refuse/manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Choked rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defective cills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Overgrown land	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Absence of closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suitable artificial lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
No permanent ventilation to food store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

TABLE 21
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Articles	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Wearing Apparel ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	19	—	39
Uniform	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Bed Covers ...	4	—	1	4	—	—	7	—	—	9	3	—	28
Mattresses ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Feather Beds	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	10
Eiderdowns	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bolsters	3	—	—	23	—	—	6	2	—	19	4	—	57
Pillows	3	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	—	31
Blankets	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	13
Sheets	2	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	31	15	7	64
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	20	7	1	46	—	—	15	2	—	105	49	7	252

TABLE 22
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A.P.M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Vermin	—	5	2	—	11	—	—	6	7	—	8	—	47
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	1	5	2	11	11	2	1	6	7	1	10	1	58

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 202 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces, 14 notices being served. Ten of the notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following details are of the items in the notices served.

Factories Act, 1937

SECTION 7:

Dirty walls and ceiling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty floor	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pedestal dirty	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective ring seat to pedestal	...	...	...	...	...	2
Absence of closet accommodation on building site	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective flushing cistern	...	...	...	...	...	1

DISINFESTATION, DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing and other articles is carried out at the Disinfection Station, St. Mary's Lane, Bexhill.

No. of rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	58
No. of articles disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	252
No. of visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	80

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A total of 271 complaints was received and 1,549 visits were made to premises and land.

<i>No. of complaints</i>	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1959	160	111	271
1958	198	131	329
1957	211	131	342
1956	191	135	326
1955	192	105	287

Total number of visits paid

1959	1,549
1958	2,398
1957	2,773
1956	2,849
1955	3,085

Farm Premises

Twenty-five visits of survey were made by the Rodent Officer. There are 61 premises within the Borough which are classed as Agricultural.

INFESTATIONS:

17 premises treated by the occupier.

8 premises treated by the Council's Rodent Officer.

Sewers

Following negative results in 1957, the Ministry of Agriculture has exempted the Borough from further tests until 1960.

St. Mary's Lane Refuse Tip

This tip continues to be used to a minor degree with the minimum of labour. There is a working arrangement between the General Assistant of the Department and the Tip Attendant as to the work needed to keep the tip clear of rodent infestation—31 supervisory visits were made by the General Assistant for this purpose.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would extend my sincere thanks to all members of the staff for their help and assistance during what has been to me a rather difficult year. I have already spoken of the qualities of Mr. Lockley in that he stepped into the breach and with him would couple Mr. S. Wild for his assistance in keeping the wheels in motion.

I would make a special mention of Miss N. W. McEvoy who in her first complete year in charge of the clerical side relating to environmental matters has given good service and has been able to produce the complete statistical record of the work carried out in a most efficient manner.

As in the past I have enjoyed the complete support of Dr. R. J. Toleman, the Medical Officer of Health, who has at all times been ready to discuss problems and to give advice. I have found him most amenable to any suggestions which may have been made.

Finally to Mr. Westwood, the Chief Clerk, and Mr. G. Chalmers, the General Assistant I extend my most sincere thanks for their very willing co-operation and support. This latter is perhaps an understatement.

To the Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee and to all members of the Council, may I tender my sincere thanks for their consideration and support.

W. H. BALL,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Chandlers (Printers) Ltd., 20 St. Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

